

Remarks

Claims 1-18 are pending in the subject application. Claims 15-17 have been withdrawn per a restriction requirement. Claims 9-11 have been cancelled as redundant in view of the amendments to claim 1. Upon entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 1-8, 12-14 and 18 will be before the Examiner for consideration.

Claim 9 was objected to for certain informalities. This objection is now moot in view of the cancellation of the claim. Reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1-12 and 14 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Creedon (1,046,985) in view of Diaz (1,915,721) and Whiton et al. (6,961,227). Applicants respectfully traverse and assert that the amendments to claim 1 obviate this basis for rejection. Claim 1 has been amended to further define the elements of the wiring harness and has been amended to add the additional element of a wiring harness connector assembly. Applicants agree with the Examiner's view that Creedon does not disclose an electrical connector. Diaz is cited to for the element of a connector. Applicants respectfully assert that the connector strap of Diaz is a considerably older design, and clearly lacks several key features of the connector assembly set forth in element (d) of claim 1. The Diaz patent does not contemplate any issues with carrying very high voltages in the wires, much less the development of special insulation layers and spacing of the wires in the assembly. When dealing with high voltages, the Applicants have realized a shortcoming of the prior art to recognize or deal with the problem of undesired arc-ing or short-circuiting of the device. If the high voltages are not successfully contained, injury or debilitation of the user could occur. The device in claim 1 addresses these realized shortcomings.

In addition, the device of claim 1 allows for the quick disconnection of the apparel item from the control unit. Namely, the apparel item is disconnected from the wiring harness at the wiring harness connector assembly. This is a critical and not before recognized improvement in the field of non-lethal weapons. In the scenario where a

perpetrator may successfully wrestle the user and remove the apparel item, the apparel item cannot then be used against the user. Moreover, no undesired shortcircuiting of the cable will result, which as discussed above can result in the debilitation of the user, leaving them vulnerable for harm.

Also, the device of claim 1 recites the implementation of multiple activation switches. The use of multiple activation switches is a marked improvement over the prior art. This increases the sensitivity and operability of the non-lethal weapon. The switches are also connected in parallel, which means that if any one switch is actuated, the weapon will discharge, assuming the weapon is in the operating mode. The implementation of multiple pressure activation switches in a parallel circuit is not taught or suggested by the prior art.

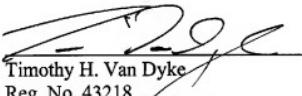
As the foregoing remarks reveal, the elements of the wiring harness and the connection assembly as set forth in claim 1 provide a number of important advancements that are not recognized by Diaz or any of the cited art. Further, it cannot be fairly said that any of the cited references provide any teaching or suggestion to modify the other to achieve all of the limitations in claim 1. Claims 2-12 and 14 are construed to contain the limitations of claim 1, and therefore are also not rendered obvious by the cited art. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 USC § 103(a) rejection of claims 1-12 and 14.

Claim 13 is rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Creedon in view of Diaz and Whiton et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection and incorporate the remarks made in rebuttal of the rejection of claims 1-12 and 14. As noted above, the Creedon, Diaz and Whiton et al. references neither alone, nor in combination, teach all of the limitations of claim 1. Claim 13 is construed to contain the limitations of claim 1. Thus, the cited art also fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness against claim 13. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 USC § 103(a) rejection of claim 13.

Claim 13 and 18 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Creedon in view of Diaz and Whiton et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection and incorporate the remarks made in rebuttal of the rejection of claims 1-12 and 14. As noted above, the Creedon, Diaz and Whiton et al. references neither alone, nor in combination, teach all of the limitations of claim 1. Claims 13 and 18 are construed to contain the limitations of claim 1. Thus, the cited art also fails to establish a prima facie case of obviousness against claim 13. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 USC § 103(a) rejection of claims 13 and 18.

Applicants believe that all claims are in a condition for allowance, and request that a Notice of Allowance be issued. Applicants invite the Examiner to call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any aspect of this response. In addition, the Applicants request that the Examiner call the undersigned to arrange a telephonic interview if the Examiner believes that not all grounds for rejection have been addressed and overcome.

Respectfully Submitted,



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